REMARKS

Claims 1-58 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nakagawa* (US 5,819,295) and *Trede* (US 5,873,103).

In rejecting Claim 1, the examiner observes that Nakagawa does not teach "placeholders for reserving a slot." The examiner asserts that *Trede* teaches "placeholders for reserving a slot." The Office Action at hand does not provide any specific reference within *Trede*. The Office Action misinterprets *Trede's* use of the term placeholder. *Trede* uses the term 'placeholder' merely as a pointer to pre-existing data. *Trede* states ". . . a 'placeholder entry' in the data file directory 511 of the managed volume. . . points to the catalog entry . . . that lists the relative storage location in the secondary storage 52 that contains the migrated data file." Column 6, lines 53-60. Other than for updates, *Trede* makes no accomodation for files that do not exist at the time of creation of the data file directory. For example, *Trede* states "The data file directory . . . is updated with a placeholder entry in the directory to indicate that this data file has been migrated to backend data storage." Column 1, lines 58-62. *Trede* speaks to the moving of files around in a network to new locations in order to optimize file speed access. E.g. column 6, lines 1-3. But *Trede* entirely fails to suggest or imply creation of new data files that are initially represented only by a placeholder. In fact, *Trede* speaks of "unique and immutable migration keys which are included in the placeholder entries to identify the location of the associated data file with absolute certainty." Column 10, lines 39-43. See also column 2, lines 34-37. "Absolute certainty" of file location is incompatible with files that are yet to be created. *Trede* does not use placeholders for "reserving" a slot. Claims 1, 28, and 37 have been amended to clarify that the present invention does not rely on the existence of pre-created documents. The amended language is consistent with the original filed specification. See e.g. Specification page 7 line 7. Because neither *Trede* nor *Nakagawa* teaches "placeholders for reserving a slot", no combination of the cited art teaches or makes obvious that element of Claim 1. Such patentably distinguishes the present invention over the cited art and warrants withdrawal of the rejection under § 103.

Claims 2-27 are dependent on Claim 1 and therefore inherit the foregoing patentable distinctions over *Nakagawa* and *Trede*. Thus the cited art does not make obvious the claimed invention and the rejection of each of these claims under § 103 is believed to be overcome.

The examiner has rejected Claim 28 "for the similar rationale given for claims 1, 2, 18, and 22". The foregoing arguments for Claim 1 apply to Claim 28. Because withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 is warranted as argued above, withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 28 is similarly warranted.

Claims 29-36 are dependent on Claim 28 and therefore inherit the foregoing patentable distinctions over *Nakagawa* and *Trede*. Thus the cited art does not make obvious the claimed invention and the rejection of each of these claims under § 103 is believed to be overcome.

In rejecting Claim 37, the examiner refers to col 2, lines 30-56 relative to the claim element of "creating at least one placeholder reserving a slot within the workfolder for documents expected to be linked to the workfolder via a placeholder." It is unclear as to which reference, Nakagawa or Trede, this citation refers. Applicant's attorney assumes that the examiner intended that citation to refer to *Trede*. As argued above with respect to Claim 1, the placeholder entry in *Trede* is a pointer to existing data. *Trede* makes no accommodation for files that do not exist at the time of creation of the data file directory. See column 6, lines 53-60 and column 1, lines 58-67. As now amended, Claim 37 recites this distinction as "...creating at least one placeholder reserving a slot within said workfolder for documents which may or may not exist at the time of workfolder creation...". Such patentably distinguishes the present invention over the cited art and warrants withdrawal of the rejection under § 103.

Claims 38-58 are dependent on Claim 37 and therefore inherit the foregoing patentable distinctions over *Nakagawa*. Thus the cited art does not make obvious the claimed invention and the rejection of each of these claims under § 103 is believed to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all pending claims (Claims 1-58) are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application

be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (781) 861-6240.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

Claim Amendments Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii)

1.   (Twice amended) A computer readable memory having a plurality of storage locations for storing records in the computer readable memory, said memory comprising:

at least one structured workfolder for storing and organizing electronic documents which said documents may or may not exist at the time of workfolder creation;

said workfolder containing a contents element for storing primary data, said contents element containing one or more placeholders for reserving a slot within said workfolder for documents expected to be added to said workfolder via said placeholder.

28.   (Twice amended) A computer readable memory having a plurality of storage locations for storing records in the computer readable memory, said memory comprising:

a template used to create one or more particular instances of a structured workfolder for storing and organizing electronic documents;

said template containing a contents element;

said contents element containing a placeholder for reserving a slot within said workfolder for documents expected to be linked to said workfolder instance, which said documents may or may not exist at the time of workfolder creation, said documents being linkable subsequent to their creation to said workfolder instance via a particular instance of said placeholder in said workfolder instance.

37.   (Twice amended) A method of creating in a computer readable memory a structured workfolder for organizing electronic documents comprising the steps of:

creating a structured workfolder root node, said root node containing a contents element for storing primary data therein; and

creating at least one placeholder reserving a slot within said workfolder for documents which may or may not exist at the time of workfolder creation and expected to be linked to said workfolder via said placeholder.